

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

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Claim 1. (currently amended) A remotely controlled and monitored spa, comprising:

- A) a spa controller,
- B) an interface signal converter, electrically connected to said spa controller, and
- C) a remote computer connected to said interface signal converter via a communications link, wherein said remote computer is programmed to display a control page.

wherein said interface signal converter converts communication signals transferred from said remote computer via said communications link and directs the converted signals to said spa controller, and wherein said interface signal converter converts signals from said spa controller to be communicated to said remote computer via said communications link.

Claim 2. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said interface signal converter comprises an RS transceiver.

Claim 3. (original) The spa as in Claim 2, wherein said RS transceiver is an RS-485 transceiver.

Claim 4. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said interface signal converter comprises an IR transceiver.

Claim 5. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said interface signal converter comprises an RF transceiver.

Claim 6. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said interface signal converter is capable of transceiving at least two different types of communication signals.

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Claim 7. (currently amended) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said ~~at least two different types of~~ communication signals are is an RS differential signal and an IR signal.

Claim 8. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said interface signal converter is removably attached to said spa controller.

Claim 9. (original) The spa as in Claim 8, wherein said spa controller defines a cavity, wherein said interface signal converter is removably attached to said spa controller via said cavity.

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Claim 10. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said interface signal converter is rigidly attached to said spa controller.

Claim 11. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said remote computer is connected to said interface signal converter via a communications wire.

Claim 12. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said communications link is a wireless communications link.

Claim 13. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, further comprising a second remote computer for sending commands to said spa controller and receiving data from said spa controller, wherein said second remote computer is connected to said spa controller via a computer network.

Claim 14. (original) The spa as in Claim 13, wherein said computer network is the Internet.

Claim 15. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said communications link is the Internet.

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Claim 16. (currently amended) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said ~~remote computer is controlled by the spa owner.~~ remote computer is a spa owner computer and said control page is a spa owner page.

Claim 17. (currently amended) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said ~~remote computer is controlled by the spa dealer.~~ remote computer is a spa dealer computer for control by a spa dealer and wherein said control page is a spa dealer page.

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Claim 18. (currently amended) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said ~~remote computer is controlled by the spa manufacturer.~~ remote computer is a spa manufacturer computer for control by a spa manufacturer and wherein said control page is a spa manufacturer page.

Claim 19. (currently amended) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said ~~remote computer is controlled by the spa service technician.~~ wherein said remote computer is a spa service technician computer for control by a spa service technician and wherein said control page is a spa service technician page.

Claim 20. (currently amended) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said ~~remote computer is controlled by the spa controller manufacturer.~~ wherein said remote computer is a spa controller manufacturer computer for control by a spa controller manufacturer and wherein said control page is a spa controller manufacturer page.

Claim 21. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said communications link comprises a computer network..

Claim 22. (original) The spa as in Claim 21, wherein said computer network is the Internet.

Claim 23. (original) The spa as in Claim 21, wherein said computer network is a LAN.

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Claim 24. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said remote computer is a PDA.

Claim 25. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said remote computer is a cellular phone.

Claim 26. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, further comprising a spa skirt wherein said remote computer is located underneath said spa skirt.

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Claim 27. (original) The spa as in Claim 26, wherein said remote computer is connected to a computer network.

Claim 28. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said remote computer is used to is used to monitor and control the spa.

Claim 29. (original) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said remote computer is used to download software to said spa controller.

Claim 30. (currently amended) A remotely controlled and monitored spa, comprising:

A) a spa controller means,

B) an interface signal converter means, electrically connected to said spa controller means, and

C) a remote computer means connected to said interface signal converter means via a communications link, wherein said remote computer means is programmed to display a control page,

wherein said interface signal converter means converts communication signals transferred from said remote computer means via said communications link, and wherein said interface signal converter means converts signals from said spa controller means to be communicated to said remote computer means via said communications link.

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Claim 31. (new) The spa as in Claim 17, wherein said remotely controlled and monitored spa is a plurality of remotely controlled and monitored spas, wherein each of said plurality of remotely controlled and monitored spas is in control communication with said spa dealer computer via said communications link, wherein said plurality of remotely controlled and monitored spas comprises at least one spa sold by said spa dealer, wherein an operator of said spa dealer computer interfaces with said plurality of remotely controlled and monitored spas via said spa dealer page.

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Claim 32. (new) The spa as in Claim 18, wherein said spa manufacturer computer is connected to said remotely controlled and operated spa via said communications link, wherein said spa manufacturer computer transmits programming instructions to said remotely controlled and operated spa prior to the sale of said spa.

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Claim 33. (new) The spa as in Claim 32, wherein said programming instructions program said spa controller to perform at least one function selected from the group consisting of: to set the speed of a spa water pump, to set the speed of a spa air blower, and to set the temperature of a spa heater element.

Claim 34. (new) The spa as in Claim 19, wherein said spa service technician computer is connected to said remotely controlled and operated spa via said communications link, wherein an operator of said spa service technician computer troubleshoots and repairs said remotely controlled and operated spa by interfacing with said spa via said spa service technician page.

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Claim 35. (new) The spa as in Claim 20, wherein said spa controller manufacturer computer is connected to said remotely controlled and operated spa via said communications link, wherein said spa controller manufacturer computer transmits programming instructions to said spa controller prior to the sale of said spa.

Claim 36. (new) The spa as in Claim 35, wherein said programming instructions comprise an instruction to said spa controller to set a maximum allowable

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temperature inside said spa, wherein said maximum allowable temperature is modifiable only by said spa controller manufacturer computer.

Claim 37. (new) The spa as in Claim 36, wherein said maximum allowable temperature is set in accordance with industry regulations.

Claim 38. (new) The spa as in Claim 16, wherein said spa owner computer is connected to said remotely controlled and operated spa via said communications link, wherein said spa owner interfaces with said remotely controlled and operated spa via said spa owner page to program said spa controller in accordance with said spa owner's preferences.

Claim 39. (new) The spa as in Claim 1, wherein said control page is a customized control page, wherein said customized control page is customized to be operated by a specific operator.

Claim 40. (new) The spa as in Claim 39, wherein said specific operator is a spa owner.

Claim 41. (new) The spa as in Claim 39, wherein said specific operator is a spa dealer.

Claim 42. (new) The spa as in Claim 39, wherein said specific operator is a spa manufacturer.

Claim 43. (new) The spa as in Claim 39, wherein said specific operator is a spa service technician.

Claim 44. (new) The spa as in Claim 39, wherein said specific operator is a spa controller manufacture.

Claim 45. (new) A remotely controlled and monitored spa, comprising:

A) a spa controller,

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B) an interface signal converter, electrically connected to said spa controller, said interface signal converter comprising:

1. a first signal buffer for regulating the flow of incoming wireless communication signals,
2. a second signal buffer for regulating the flow of incoming wire transmitted communication signals,
3. a first enabling line for permitting the transmission of outgoing wireless communication signals, and
4. a second enabling line for permitting the transmission of outgoing wire transmitted communication signals,

C) a remote computer connected to said interface signal converter via a communications link,

D) an interface signal converter CPU for controlling said interface signal converter, wherein said interface signal converter CPU is programmed to control said interface signal converter to:

1. receive communication signals from said remote computer,
2. recognize whether said communication signals are communication signals transmitted via wireless means or whether said communication signals are communication signals transmitted via a communications wire,
3. enable only said first signal buffer if said communications signals are said communication signals transmitted via wireless means or enable only said second signal buffer if said communications signals are communication signals transmitted via a communications wire, wherein enabling only said first signal buffer or said second signal buffer prevents data collision,
4. convert said communication signals,
5. direct said converted signals to said spa controller,
6. receive signals generated by said spa controller from said spa controller,
7. convert said signals generated by said spa controller to outgoing communication signals, and
8. allow the selection of whether said outgoing communication signals are transmitted via a wireless means or via a communications wire by selecting

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said first enabling line for permitting the transmission of said outgoing wireless communication signals or selecting said second enabling line for permitting the transmission of said outgoing wire transmitted communication signals.

Claim 46. (new) A remotely controlled and monitored spa, comprising:

- A) a spa controller means,
- B) an interface signal converter means, electrically connected to said spa controller means, said interface signal converter means comprising:
  - 1. a first signal buffer means for regulating the flow of incoming wireless communication signals,
  - 2. a second signal buffer means for regulating the flow of incoming wire transmitted communication signals,
  - 3. a first enabling line means for permitting the transmission of outgoing wireless communication signals, and
  - 4. a second enabling line means for permitting the transmission of outgoing wire transmitted communication signals,
- C) a remote computer means connected to said interface signal converter via a communications link,
- D) an interface signal converter CPU means for controlling said interface signal converter means, wherein said interface signal converter CPU means is programmed to control said interface signal converter means to:
  - 1. receive communication signals from said remote computer means,
  - 2. recognize whether said communication signals are communication signals transmitted via wireless means or whether said communication signals are communication signals transmitted via a communications wire,
  - 3. enable only said first signal buffer means if said communications signals are said communication signals transmitted via wireless means or enable only said second signal buffer means if said communications signals are communication signals transmitted via a communications wire, wherein enabling only said



first signal buffer means or said second signal buffer means prevents data collision,

4. convert said communication signals,
5. direct said converted signals to said spa controller means,
6. receive signals generated by said spa controller means from said spa controller means,
7. convert said signals generated by said spa controller means to outgoing communication signals, and
8. allow the selection of whether said outgoing communication signals are transmitted via a wireless means or via a communications wire by selecting said first enabling line means for permitting the transmission of said outgoing wireless communication signals or selecting said second enabling line means for permitting the transmission of said outgoing wire transmitted communication signals.

Claim 47. (new) A remotely controlled and monitored spa, comprising:

A) a spa controller,

B) an interface signal converter, adapted to be releasably connected to said spa controller, when connected to said spa controller said interface signal converter establishing a first communication link with said spa controller, said interface signal converter being adapted to establish a second communication link with a remote computing device, when said interface signal converter is connected to said spa controller, said interface signal converter being adapted for:

- converting communication signals transferred from the remote computing device via said second communications link to derive converted signals;
- directing the converted signals to said spa controller over said first communication link;
- converting signals transferred from said spa controller over said first communication link to derive signals to be communicated to the remote computing device via said second communications link.

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Claim 48. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said interface signal converter comprises a serial link transceiver for exchanging signals over a serial link.

Claim 49. (new) The spa as in Claim 48, wherein said serial link transceiver is an RS-485 transceiver.

Claim 50. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said interface signal converter comprises an IR transceiver.

Claim 51. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said interface signal converter comprises an RF transceiver.

Claim 52. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said interface signal converter is capable of transceiving at least two different types of communication signals.

Claim 53. (new) The spa as in Claim 52, wherein said at least two different types of communication signals include a serial wire-line signal and an IR signal.

Claim 54. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said spa controller defines a cavity, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to be releasably connected to said spa controller via said cavity.

Claim 55. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish a second communication link with a remote computing device via a wire-line link.

Claim 56. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish a second communication link with a remote computing device via a wireless link.

Claim 57. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish a second communication link with a remote computing device over a computer network.

Claim 58. (new) The spa as in Claim 57, wherein said computer network is the Internet.

Claim 59. (new) The spa as in Claim 57, wherein said computer network is a LAN.

Claim 60. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish the second communication link with a PDA.

Claim 61. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish the second communication link with a cellular phone.

Claim 62. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, further comprising a spa skirt adapted such that the remote computing device may be positioned underneath said spa skirt.


Claim 63. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein the remote computing device is used to monitor and control the spa.

Claim 64. (new) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein the remote computing device is used to upload software to said spa controller.

Claim 65. (new) A remotely controlled and monitored spa, comprising:

A) spa controller means,

B) an interface signal converter means, adapted to be releasably connected to said spa controller means, when connected to said spa controller means said interface signal converter means establishing a first communication link with said spa controller means, said interface signal converter means being adapted to establish a

 second communication link with a remote computing device, when said interface signal converter means is connected to said spa controller means, said interface signal converter means being adapted for:

- converting communication signals transferred from the remote computing device via said second communications link to derive converted signals;
- directing the converted signals to said spa controller means over said first communication link;
- converting signals transferred from said spa controller means over said first communication link to derive signals to be communicated to the remote computing device via said second communications link.

Claim 66. (New) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said interface signal converter comprises:

- i. a first interface for receiving signals over a first type of link;
- ii. a second interface for receiving signals over a second type of link;
- iii. a processing unit adapted for:
  - 1. selecting one of said first interface and said second interface on the basis of an input selection signal;
  - 2. processing signals received at the selected one of said first interface and said second interface to derive converted signals, said converted signal being compatible with said spa controller;
- iv. a third interface for directing said converted signals to said spa controller.

Claim 67. (New) The spa as in Claim 66, wherein said input selection signal is derived at least in part on the basis of a signal received over either one of the first type of link and the second type of link.

Claim 68. (New) The spa as in Claim 66, wherein the first type of link is a wireless link.

Claim 69. (New) The spa as in Claim 68, wherein said wireless link is an infra-red link.

Claim 70. (New) The spa as in Claim 68, wherein said wireless link is a radio-frequency (RF) link.

Claim 71. (New) The spa as in Claim 68, wherein the second type of link is a wire-line link.

Claim 72. (New) The spa as in Claim 68, wherein the first type of link is an IR link and the second type of link is a serial link.

Claim 73. (New) The spa as in Claim 47, wherein said spa controller includes a first program element for use in controlling a spa, at least some communication signals transferred from the remote computing device via said second communications link being indicative of a second program element.

Claim 74. (New) The spa as in Claim 73, wherein said second program element being operative for causing the first program element at the spa controller to be upgraded.

Claim 75. (New) A control system suitable for use in controlling a spa, said control system comprising:

- b) a spa controller;
- c) an interface signal converter, adapted to be releasably connected to said spa controller, when connected to said spa controller said interface signal converter establishing a first communication link with said spa controller, said interface signal converter being adapted to establish a second communication link with a remote computing device, when said interface signal converter is connected to said spa controller, said interface signal converter being adapted for:
  - i. converting communication signals transferred from the remote computing device via said second communications link to derive converted signals;

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- ii. directing the converted signals to said spa controller over said first communication link;
  - iii. converting signals transferred from said spa controller over said first communication link to derive signals to be communicated to the remote computing device via said second communications link.

Claim 76. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein said interface signal converter comprises a serial link transceiver for exchanging signals over a serial link.

Claim 77. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 76, wherein said serial link transceiver is an RS-485 transceiver.

Claim 78. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein said interface signal converter comprises an IR transceiver.

Claim 79. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein said interface signal converter comprises an RF transceiver.

Claim 80. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein said interface signal converter is capable of transceiving at least two different types of communication signals.

Claim 81. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein said at least two different types of communication signals include a serial wire-line signal and an IR signal.

Claim 82. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein spa controller includes a first program element for use in controlling a spa, at least some communication signals transferred from the remote computing device via said second communications link being indicative of a second program element.

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Claim 83. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 82, wherein said second program element is operative for causing the first program element at the spa controller to be upgraded.

Claim 84. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein said spa controller defines a cavity, said interface signal converter being adapted to be releasably connected to said spa controller via said cavity.

Claim 85. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish a second communication link with a remote computing device via a wire-line link.

Claim 86. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish a second communication link with a remote computing device via a wireless link.

Claim 87. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish a second communication link with a remote computing device over a computer network.

Claim 88. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 87, wherein said computer network is the Internet.

Claim 89. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 87, wherein said computer network is a LAN.

Claim 90. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 87, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish the second communication link with a PDA.

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Claim 91. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish the second communication link with a cellular phone.

Claim 92. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein the remote computing device is used to monitor and control the spa.

Claim 93. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 75, wherein the remote computing device is used to upload software to said spa controller.

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Claim 94. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 40, wherein said interface signal converter comprises:

- i. a first interface for receiving signals over a first type of link;
- ii. a second interface for receiving signals over a second type of link;
- iii. a processing unit adapted for:
  1. selecting one of said first interface and said second interface on the basis of an input selection signal;
  2. processing signals received at the selected one of said first interface and said second interface to derive converted signals, said converted signals being compatible with said spa controller;
- iv. a third interface for directing said converted signals to said spa controller.

Claim 95. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 94, wherein said input selection signal is derived at least in part on the basis of a signal received over either one of the first type of link and the second type of link.

Claim 96. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 95, wherein the first type of link is a wireless link.

Claim 97. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 96, wherein said wireless link is an infra-red link.



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Claim 98. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 96, wherein said wireless link is a radio-frequency (RF) link.

Claim 99. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 96, wherein the second type of link is a wire-line link.

Claim 100. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 99, wherein the first type of link is an IR link and the second type of link is a serial link.

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Claim 101. (New) A control system suitable for use in controlling a spa, said control system comprising:

- a) a spa controller;
- b) an interface signal converter in communication with said spa controller, said interface signal converter having:
  - i. a first interface for receiving signals over a first communication link;
  - ii. a second interface for receiving signals over a second communication link distinct from said first communication link;
  - iii. a processing unit adapted for:
    - 1. selecting one of said first interface and said second interface on the basis of an input selection signal;
    - 2. processing signal received at the selected one of said first interface and said second interface to derive a converted signal, said converted signal being compatible with said spa controller;
  - iv. a third interface for directing said converted signal to said spa controller.

Claim 102. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 101, wherein said input selection signal is derived at least in part on the basis of a signal received over either one of the first communication link and the second communication link.

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Claim 103.(New) A control system as defined in Claim 101, wherein said first communication link includes a wireless link.

Claim 104.(New) A control system as defined in Claim 103, wherein said wireless link includes an infra-red link.

Claim 105.(New) A control system as defined in Claim 103, wherein said wireless link includes a radio-frequency (RF) link.

Claim 106.(New) A control system as defined in Claim 103, wherein said second communication link includes a wire-line link.

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Claim 107.(New) A control system as defined in Claim 106, wherein said first communication link includes an IR link and said second communication link includes a serial link.

Claim 108. (New) A control system as defined in Claim 101, wherein:

- a) said third interface is adapted for receiving a signal from said spa controller;
- b) said processing unit being adapted for:
  - i. processing the signal received from said spa controller to derive a first signal suitable to be communicated over the first communication link;
  - ii. processing the signal received from said spa controller to derive a second signal suitable to be communicated over the second communication link;
  - iii. selecting one of said first signal and said second signal on the basis of an output selection signal;
- c) when the selected one of said first signal and said second signal is said first signal, said first interface being adapted for releasing said first signal;
- d) when the selected one of said first signal and said second signal is said second signal, said second interface being adapted for releasing said second signal.

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Claim 109.(New) A control system as defined in Claim 108, wherein said output selection signal is derived at least in part on the basis of a signal received over either one of the first communication link and the second communication link.

Claim 110. (New) An interface signal converter suitable for use in spa control system including a spa controller, said interface signal converter comprising:

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- i. a first interface adapted to be releasably connected to the spa controller, when connected to the spa controller said first interface being operative for exchanging signals over a first communication link;
  - ii. a second interface for establishing a second communication link with a remote computing device;
  - iii. a processing unit adapted for:
    - 1. converting communication signals transferred from the remote computing device via said second communications link and received at said second interface to derive converted signals;
    - 2. directing the converted signals to said spa controller via said first interface.

Claim 111. (New) An interface signal converter as defined in claim 75, wherein said processing unit is operative for:

- i. converting signals transferred from the spa controller over said first communication link and received at said first interface to derive signals to be communicated to the remote computing device;
- ii. directing the derived signals to the remote computing device via the second interface.

Claim 112.(New) An interface signal converter as defined in Claim 110, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to releasably engage a cavity on a spa controller.

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Claim 113.(New) An interface signal converter as defined in Claim 110, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish the second communication link with a remote computing device via a wire-line link.

Claim 114.(New) An interface signal converter as defined in Claim 110, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish the second communication link with a remote computing device via a wireless link.

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Claim 115.(New) An interface signal converter as defined in Claim 110, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish the second communication link with a remote computing device over a computer network.

Claim 116.(New) An interface signal converter as defined in Claim 110, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish the second communication link with a PDA.

Claim 117.(New) An interface signal converter as defined in Claim 110, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted to establish the second communication link with a cellular phone.

Claim 118. (New) An interface signal converter as defined in Claim 75, wherein said a first interface is adapted for receiving signals over a first type of link, said interface signal converter comprising:

- i. a third interface for receiving signals over a second type of link;
- ii. a processing unit adapted for:
  1. selecting one of said first interface and said third interface on the basis of an input selection signal;
  2. processing signals received at the selected one of said first interface and said third interface to derive converted signals, said converted signal being compatible with said spa controller;

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3. releasing said converted signals to said spa controller at said second interface.

Claim 119.(New) An interface signal converter as in Claim 118, wherein said input selection signal is derived at least in part on the basis of a signal received over either one of the first type of link and the second type of link.

Claim 120.(New) An interface signal converter as defined in Claim 119, wherein the first type of link is a wireless link.

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Claim 121.(New) An interface signal converter as defined in Claim 119, wherein said wireless link is an infra-red link.

Claim 122. (New) A control system suitable for use in controlling a spa, said control system comprising:

- a) a spa controller including:
  - i. a memory module for storing a first program element including a set of instructions for use in controlling a spa;
  - ii. a processor in communication with the memory module, said processor being adapted for executing the set of instructions;
- b) an interface signal converter adapted for:
  - i. establishing a first communication link with said spa controller for exchanging signal with said spa controller;
  - ii. establishing a second communication link with a remote computing device for exchanging signal with the remote computing device;
  - iii. at least some communication signals transferred from the remote computing device via said second communications link being indicative of a second program element, said second program element being operative for causing the first program element to be upgraded.

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Claim 123. (New) A control system as defined in claim 122, wherein said interface signal converter adapted for:

- i. converting communication signals transferred from the remote computing device via said second communications link to derive converted signals;
- ii. directing the converted signals to said spa controller over said first communication link.

Claim 124. (New) A control system as defined in claim 123, wherein said interface signal converter is adapted for converting signals transferred from said spa controller over said first communication link to derive signals to be communicated to the remote computing device via said second communications link.

Claim 125. (New) A control system as defined in claim 124, wherein said first program element when executing on the processor of said spa controller is operative for:

- a) generating information data elements associated to an operational setting of the spa;
- b) communicating the information data elements to the interface signal converter over the first communication link.

Claim 126. (New) A control system as defined in claim 125, wherein the information data elements include at least one data element selected from the set consisting of a current water temperature, a current setting for the water temperature and a status of a component of the spa.

Claim 127. (New) A control system suitable for use in remotely controlling a spa, said control system comprising:

- a) a first computing device implementing a user interface for conveying information to a user of the control system, the information conveyed being associated to the spa;
- b) a spa controller including an interface module for exchanging signals with the first computing device over a first communication link;

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c) said first computing device being adapted for establishing, over a computer network, a second communication link with a second computing device distinct from said first computing device such as to allow the spa controller and second computing device to exchange data over a data communication path formed by the first communication link and the second communication link.

Claim 128.(New) A control system as defined in claim 127, wherein said the user interface of the first computing device includes an input for enabling a user of the first computing device to enter a command directed to said spa controller.

Claim 129.(New) A control system as defined in claim 127, wherein at least some of the data over the data communication path between the second computing device and the spa controller being indicative of a command originating from the second computing device and being directed to the spa controller.

Claim 130.(New) A control system as defined in claim 127, wherein said the user interface of the first computing device is adapted for conveying information to a user of the control system in a visual format.

Claim 131.(New) A control system as defined in claim 128, wherein said first computing device includes a personal digital assistant (PDA).

Claim 132.(New) A control system as defined in claim 128, wherein said first computing device includes a cellular phone.

Claim 133.(New) A control system as defined in claim 128, where at least a portion of said data communication path is a wireless link.

Claim 134.(New) A control system as defined in claim 133, where at least a portion of the second communication link is wireless.

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Claim 135.(New) A control system as defined in claim 134, where at least a portion of the first communication link is a wire-line link.

Claim 136.(New) A control system as defined in claim 128, wherein said spa controller is operative for generating information data elements associated to an operational setting of the spa and communicating the information data elements to the second computing device over the data communication path.

Claim 137.(New) A control system as defined in claim 136, wherein the information data elements include at least one data element selected from the set consisting of a current water temperature, a current setting for the water temperature and a status of a component of the spa.

Claim 138. (New) A control system as defined in claim 127, wherein said spa controller includes:

- i. a memory module for storing a first program element including a set of instructions for use in controlling a spa;
- ii. a processor in communication with the memory module, said processor being adapted for executing the set of instructions;

at least some data exchanged over the data communication path being indicative of a second program element, said second program element being operative for causing the first program element to be upgraded.